

Please Amend the abstract on page 57 as follows:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods ~~for providing~~ are provided for accelerated loading of operating system and application programs upon system boot or application launch. In one aspect, a method for providing accelerated loading of an operating system ~~includes~~ comprises the steps of: maintaining a list of boot data used for booting a computer system, ~~÷~~ preloading the boot data upon initialization of the computer system, ~~÷~~ and servicing requests for boot data from the computer system using the preloaded boot data. The boot data may comprise program code associated with an operating system of the computer system, an application program, and a combination thereof. ~~In a preferred embodiment, the~~ The boot data is retrieved from a boot device and stored in a cache memory device. ~~In another aspect, the method for accelerated loading of an operating system comprises updating the list of boot data during the boot process, wherein updating comprises adding to the list any boot data requested by the computer system not previously stored in the list and/or removing from the list any boot data previously stored in the list and not requested by the computer system. In yet another aspect, the~~ The boot data is stored in a compressed format on the boot device and the preloaded boot data is decompressed prior to transmitting the preloaded boot data to the requesting system. ~~In another aspect, a method for providing accelerated launching of an application program comprises the steps of: maintaining a list of application data associated with an application program; preloading the application data upon launching the application program; and servicing requests for application data from a computer system using the preloaded application data.~~